

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A method of consistently producing quality meat products by managing growth of a plurality of animals through a growth management program, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing standards for participation in the program, the standards including -  
initiation standards and growth standards;  
admitting into the program only animals that meet the initiation standards;  
tracking each animal's growth; and  
culling out animals who fail to meet the growth standards.

10. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the initiation standards include a minimum birth weight.

11. (New) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the minimum birth weight is approximately eighty-five pounds.

12. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the growth standards include a minimum twelfth week weight.

13. (New) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the minimum twelfth week weight is approximately two hundred pounds.

14. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the growth standards include a minimum seventeenth week weight.

15. (New) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the minimum seventeenth week weight is approximately three hundred pounds.

16. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the growth standards include a minimum growth rate.

17. (New) The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the minimum growth rate is approximately two and one half pounds per day.

18. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9, further including the step of implementing a growth protocol for the animals.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the growth protocol includes requirements concerning types of feed given to the animals.

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20. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the growth protocol includes requirements concerning vaccinations given to the animals.